

WASHINGTON RECREATIONAL FISHING
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

6210 14th N.W., Suite 302
Seattle, Washington 98107
206-784-2244
206-781-9025 Fax

November 7, 2001

Director Jeff Koenings
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 North Capitol Way
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Jeff:

As you may know by now, I have stepped aside as Chairman of the PSRE Oversight Committee. Frank Urabeck, a long-time Committee activist and leader, has assumed the chair responsibilities. Regardless, I will continue to be active on the Committee.

As I reflect on our accomplishments of the PSRE directly benefitting Puget Sound anglers, there are two million new blackmouth released into Puget Sound waters, including Hood Canal, that didn't exist in the mid-1990s. I am proud to be part of that accomplishment. Although our sport salmon fishing seasons are not as liberal as the mid-1990s, fishing has been good when it is legal to retain blackmouth. I am convinced that current good blackmouth fishing is a direct result of this new production.

In our last Oversight Committee meeting, Jo Wadsworth, Deputy Assistant Director of the Fish Program, announced Tony Floor's responsibilities are being elevated. Tony has done an outstanding job as PSRE Coordinator in keeping me and the Committee informed of the Program's progress and managing this effort since he assumed the role in 1997. I also commend you and the Fish Program for elevating his role to work with other programs focusing on issues critical to the sport fishing community. Although I have not seen any public announcement of this action, we, as sport fishing leaders in this state, compliment you for your action.

In the meantime, I look forward to continuing our good working relationship in the future.

Sincerely,



Jim Lone
President

cc: Lt. Governor Brad Owen
Senator Bob Oake
Larry Peck
Phil Anderson
Lew Atkins
Frank Urabeck

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